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JERSEY CITY

Officers carry the flag-draped coffin of Lt. Christopher Robateau on Thursday in Jersey City as more than 1,000 cops attended the funeral of the 23-year Jersey City Police Department veteran. *Photos by Reena Rose Sibayan, The Jersey Journal*

Veteran cop had a 'heart of gold'

Tearful farewell for officer killed on way to work

Caitlin Mota *The Jersey Journal*

More than 1,000 police officers from across the tri-state area came to Jersey City on Thursday to say their final goodbyes to Lt. Christopher Robateau.

Robateau, 49, was struck by a pickup truck on the New Jersey Turnpike after being involved in a crash at roughly 6:30 a.m. last Friday. He was on his way to work when the accident occurred.

Bergen Avenue was lined with residents, business owners, and passerbys paying their respects as a procession made its way from Journal Square to St. Aedan's Church.

Dozens of police officers and firefighters from pipes and drums bands played as Robateau's flag-draped coffin was led from the church. His widow, Rose Robateau, met Chief Michael Kelly for a long embrace after the flag was folded and handed to her. All three of her children held on to their weeping mother as taps played.

Robateau, a 23-year veteran of the department, was one of the city's most decorated officers with more than 40 Meritorious Police Service awards. He also received several commendations, which are awarded to officers who put their lives at risk.

"We have over 900 officers in Jersey City and he may be our best," Kelly said of Robateau at a City Hall news

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WASHINGTON

President blows up in nastiest of terms

Trump's vulgar language toward Haiti, Africa mars progress on immigration

Alan Fram and Jonathan Lemire
Associated Press

In bluntly vulgar language, President Donald Trump questioned Thursday why the U.S. would accept more immigrants from Haiti and "shithole countries" in Africa rather than places like Norway, as he rejected a bipartisan immigration deal, according to people briefed on the extraordinary Oval Office conversation.

Trump's contemptuous description of an entire continent startled lawmakers in the meeting and immediately revived charges that the president is racist. The White House did not deny his remark but issued a statement saying Trump supports immigration policies that welcome "those who can contribute to our society."

Trump made the remark in the Oval Office as two lawmakers described details to him of a bipartisan compromise among six senators that would extend protections against deportation for hundreds of thousands of young immigrants and strengthen border protections.

The senators had hoped Trump would back their accord, ending a months-long, bitter dispute over protecting "Dreamers." But the White House later rejected their proposed agreement, plunging the issue back into uncertainty just eight days before a deadline that threatens a government shutdown.

During their conversation, Dick Durbin of Illinois, the chamber's No. 2 Senate Democratic leader, was explaining that as part of that deal, a lottery for visas that has benefited people from Africa and other nations would be ended, the sources said, though there could be some other way for them to apply. Durbin said people would be allowed to stay in the U.S. who fled here after disasters hit their homes in places including

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President Donald Trump on Thursday suggested the U.S. should allow more entrants from countries like Norway, not Haiti or Africa. *Carolyn Kaster, Associated Press*

STATEHOUSE

N.J. lax on harassment rules for lawmakers

Study finds state policy among weakest in nation, as leaders call for change

Susan K. Livio and Carla Astudillo *For The Star-Ledger*

New Jersey's sexual harassment policy for state lawmakers is among the weakest in the nation, a nationwide analysis by the Associated Press found, but two top legislative leaders vowed they would make changes to strengthen it.

New Jersey was one of only 16 states where lawmakers were not actively reviewing their sexual harassment policies in response to the #metoo movement that sparked women in Hollywood and in Congress to identify their abusers, according to the AP's survey.

New Jersey also was among 17 states that do not mandate anti-sexual-harassment training for state legislators and their employees, according to the analysis.

Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg, D-Bergen, told NJ Advance Media on Wednesday she had requested a review of the policy weeks before the new legislative session began on Tuesday. "Our policy needs review, and I've requested that," Weinberg said.

The policy has not undergone any revisions since it was adopted in 2009.

Weinberg also said examining the policy would be the first order of business for the Legislative Services Commission, a body of lawmakers, including Weinberg, that reviews state policies and laws.

"It all needs to be reviewed, based on everything we know ... in this environment," said Weinberg, the highest-ranking woman in the Senate. "There should be mandatory training, just as we get on ethics issues," she added.

Newly elected Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin,

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